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The Struggle of the World Democratic Youth Alliance and  
of the Youth of Colonial Lands

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THE WORLD DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ALLIANCE AND THE  
STRUGGLE OF THE YOUTH OF COLONIAL LANDS

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(Written on the basis of a report to the Second Session of the Youth Alliance.)

Ever since it was founded, the World Democratic Youth Alliance has dedicated all its efforts to fighting for peace, democracy, national independence, and the creation of freedom and happiness for the youth. For four years it has actively rallied and organized the democratic youth all over the world to support the struggle for freedom undertaken by the youth of colonial and semicolonial lands.

Since the end of the war against fascism, the imperialist bloc, led by the US, has used barbaric force to suppress the national emancipation movements in the colonies and semicolonies the world over, especially the emancipation movements in the Southeast Asia; thus once again the broad masses have been swept by turmoil and forced to live under inhuman conditions.

For the purpose of revealing the imperialists' crime, and to observe the life and struggle of the youth of Southeast Asia, the World Youth Alliance selected, in the latter part of 1946, a goodwill mission consisting of delegates representing France, the Soviet Union, Hungary (who also represented the World Student Alliance), and Denmark. The mission stayed for two months in India, and then visited Burma, Indonesia, Malaya, and some other places. On the basis of conversations which the members of the mission had with the youth in urban as well as rural areas, and

on the basis of other information, the mission has written detailed reports describing the suffering of the youth in these areas; these reports show clearly the imperialists' crime against all the people of the world.

The youth workers in India's industrial plants receive daily only 4 annas, the equivalent in purchasing power of two copies of a daily newspaper. The dockyard workers in Singapore, most of whom are youths, receive from 1.55 to 1.85 Malayan dollars daily, while one single meal costs them from 2 to 3 dollars. Workers have a very serious housing problem; they live in quarters even worse than a pig sty, without ventilation or light, sometimes even roofless. Bad as they are, these quarters seem to be beyond the means of some workers. Thus in Karachi, many workers sleep on public roads and do their cooking amidst dust and under the hot sun. Most appalling is the way that the imperialist ruin the children; in Madras many children of the age of 5 or 6 work in dark cigarette plants, doing the same work as adults but receiving only a pittance; in many places children 7 or 8 years old work in mines, in filthy sewers, in textile plants, etc. Needless to say, these children are afflicted with terrible diseases, their skin is marked with scars and they have thin, skeleton-like bodies; but they receive no proper treatment or care.

These are but a few examples witnessed by the mission. The World Youth Alliance will publicize these naked facts through various media and call upon the youth of the world to action in support of the anti-imperialist struggle in the colonial and semicolonial areas. In the meantime, it will protest



to the UN against this crime.

In order to strengthen its support of those youth who stand in vanguard of the struggle for national independence, the World Youth Alliance has established the Division on the Struggle of Youth Against Colonialism which will be in charge of studying the youth movement in the colonial areas and rendering them necessary assistance and support.

In February 1948, the World Youth Alliance and the World Student Alliance jointly sponsored the Southeast Asia Youth Congress attended by delegates from India, Pakistan, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Vietnam, Ceylon and China. These delegates came from 39 youth organizations with a total membership of 7 million. Visiting delegates or guests included representatives from France, the Soviet Union (including the republics in Asia), Outer Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, North Korea, Britain, Hungary, Austria, etc. The congress was conducted under the slogans "Imperialists Must Get Out of Asia" and "Down with Imperialism". The conference exposed the crimes committed by the imperialist in Southeast Asia and delineated the common goals and policies for the youth's struggle in the various Asiatic countries.

This Southeast Asia Youth Congress of February 1948 has fortified the organizations of the democratic youth of the Asiatic countries and has also strengthened the unity among them.

In Latin America, US imperialism also pursues policies of exploitation and acquisition; it annexes bases and seaports, controls the politics, and seizes rich natural resources and other

vital economic interests there. Democratic organizations within these countries are always under constant threats; the youth workers particularly live in extreme poverty and on the verge of starvation.

The World Youth Alliance has shown like concern and support for the anti-US struggle in these Latin American countries.

Thus, in order to strengthen the unity of the youth of the Latin American countries in March 1947, the World Youth Alliance held a conference in Cuba attended by youth delegates from fourteen Latin American countries. It was decided at that conference that a Latin American Youth Conference should be held in the following year. In early 1948, a goodwill mission was organized by the World Youth Alliance to visit Mexico, Cuba, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, and other countries. This mission met with many obstacles from the reactionary government of the various countries and even with outrageous insults. For instance, the police arrested the delegates when they landed at the Bogota airport, confiscating their documents, and they were continually being threatened by the fascists.

However, the delegates were warmly welcomed by the youth of the various countries. In Mexico, workers organized a mass meeting attended by 1,500 persons to welcome them; in Cuba, about 1,200 youth workers held a meeting of welcome, and despite obstruction from the US Embassy, the students of Panama held a meeting to welcome the mission. In fact, the mission received a hearty welcome in every country it visited.

Finally at the end of April and going into the early part of

May of 1948, the Latin American Youth Conference held sessions in Mexico, attended by representatives from Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Puerto Rico, Panama, El Salvador and other countries near the equator. The Paraguay delegates selected the Venezuela delegates to represent them because of their inability to attend the conference. The youth of Peru, Chile, Brazil and Bolivia sent telegrams of congratulation to the conference. In addition, a delegation from the progressive youth of the US also attended the conference.

The conference alerted the youth concerning the threat by the US against world peace and urged them to oppose the Truman Plan which aims to enslave the Latin American people. The conference also protested in strong terms against racial discrimination and anti-Jewish propaganda. It formulated a common program for protecting the political, economic, and social rights of youth and urged the Latin American countries to forge a united and resolute struggle against their internal and foreign enemies on the basis of the common program.

The struggle of the youth of Africa and Middle East occupies an important place in the world struggle of youth, supported by the World Youth Alliance. Thus the World Youth Alliance dispatched a delegation composed of Indian, French, and Syrian delegates to visit Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Iran, Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus.

The mission also visited the mountain ranges of North Africa, settled by people in ancient times and long before



civilization began. However, due to the hundreds of years of French colonialism, the Algerian peasants still live in the same ancient caves as their ancestors. Most of the mine workers in Tunis live in caves of mud.

The delegation of the Alliance visited the Egyptian underground youth leaders and gathered data on the government's acts of terror against the jailed students from Damascus and Baghdad. At the end of 1948, the youth of Baghdad and Iran stood together with the masses to launch protests against the British-Iranian Treaty which jeopardizes the independence of Iran. The reactionary regime opened fire and killed 13 students in one day. The World Youth Alliance has made a strong protest against this brutal act and urged the youth organizations in the member countries to give support to the youth of Iran.

At the beginning of the outbreak of the conflict in Palestine between Israel and the Arab countries, the World Youth Alliance appealed immediately to the UN protesting the plot planned by the imperialist nations and urged the UN to adopt effective action to stop aggression. Furthermore, the World Youth Alliance also rallied the youth of Africa and Middle East to support the struggle for freedom. It appealed to the youth of its member countries to support the struggle of the veterans of the African Gold Coast. The conference has rallied support for the April strike of the mining workers of Cyprus, for the youth movement in the three French colonies in Madagascar, and for the struggle for freedom by the youth of Syria and Lebanon.

In early 1946, the World Youth Alliance had 3 million members from the youth organizations in the colonies and semicolonies, but as of 1949, it had a membership totaling 10 million. This indicates that the World Youth Alliance enjoys a good reputation in the colonies and semicolonies and that it receives support from the youth. Indeed, since it was founded, the Youth Alliance has resolutely waged the struggle against imperialism and in support of the rights of the youth of the colonies and semicolonies.

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